



Emily Berry <emilyberry@utah.gov>

Fwd: Response to your comment regarding Blasting at the U.S. Oil Sands Mine M/47/0090

1 message

Outgoing

April Abate <aprilabate@utah.gov>
To: Emily Berry <emilyberry@utah.gov>
Cc: Paul Baker <paulbaker@utah.gov>

Tue, Oct 7, 2014 at 4:34 PM

Emily,

Please scan to file. This should close out task #6236 associated with the citizen comment.

Thanks,
April

----- Forwarded message -----

From: April Abate <aprilabate@utah.gov>
Date: Tue, Oct 7, 2014 at 4:32 PM
Subject: Response to your comment regarding Blasting at the U.S. Oil Sands Mine M/47/0090
To: Raphael Cordray <craphaelc@gmail.com>
Cc: Paul Baker <paulbaker@utah.gov>

Hello Raphael,

I wanted to respond to your concern regarding the blasting issue that you reported to me on September 17, 2014. In your email, you indicated that you were riding your bike along Seep Ridge Road on Friday September 12 and did not see any posted signs regarding closure of the road. You heard a blast around 4:40 PM that afternoon and stated that there was no warnings posted in the area. You also reported that debris and rocks were on the road after the blast.

As I mentioned to you on the phone, the Division does not have any regulations that specifically pertain to blasting. However, I have contacted a company representative to inquire about the blast. He confirmed that there was a blast originating from the mine on that day and it was associated with the on-going construction of the facilities.

He also told me that blasting procedures were reviewed with the contractor several days before the scheduled blast and all procedures and explosive handling were followed in accordance with Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) regulations. The mine does not anticipate needing to use explosives very often for their mining operations but all contractors are licensed and experienced. I was told that there are several witnesses present that day who witnessed that the area was properly cleared and that the public road was sufficiently blocked off. The company's position is that nobody was in danger before, during, or after the blast.

The company does have a duty to protect public safety and welfare in accordance with our rules under Operational Practices R647-4-107. Debris and fly rock in the road **if they are demonstrated to be associated with a blast** could fall under that category of presenting a public safety hazard. Please keep us informed if you do witness any public safety and welfare hazards at or near the mine site.

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April A. Abate
Environmental Scientist III
Utah Division of Oil, Gas, & Mining

O: 801-538-5214
M: 801-232-1339
Hours M-Th 7-5

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